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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : N/A  
Applicant : Satoshi Ishikura  
Filed : herewith  
Title : SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE DESIGN  
METHOD, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE DESIGN METHOD  
RECORDING MEDIUM AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE DESIGN  
SUPPORT SYSTEM

Docket No. : 31638US4

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"**

Sir:

Please enter this amendment prior to the examination of the above-referenced patent application. Please amend the application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.